

Message Text

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41

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 AF-06 IO-11 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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P R 041643Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5900

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJECT: SOCIALISTS REJECT COMMUNIST CALL FOR UNITY

REF: LISBON 0716 (DTG 021411Z FEB 76)

SUMMARY: THE PCP HAS REITERATED ITS CALL FOR A SOCIALIST-COMMUNIST ALLIANCE TO DEFEAT ALLEGED THREAT OF RESURGENT FASCISM. SOCIALIST LEADER SOARES RESPONDED FEB 3 BY REJECTING ALLIANCE WITH EITHER PCP OR PARTIES TO RIGHT OF SOCIALISTS. END SUMMARY.

1. THE INFORMATION DEPARTMENT OF THE PORTUGUESE COMMUNIST PARTY (PCP), IN STATEMENT RELEASED JAN 31, CALLED UPON SOCIALIST PARTY

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(PS) TO JOIN IN AN "ALLIANCE OF THE LEFT." HIGHLIGHTS

INCLUDED FOLLOWING:

- SOCIALIST LEADERSHIP, BECAUSE OF ITS POLICY OF ALLIANCES WITH THE RIGHT, BEARS GRAVE RESPONSIBILITIES FOR DETERIORATING SITUATION AND ADVANCE OF "REACTION."
- SOME RECENT PS POSITIONS HAVE BEEN POSITIVE, E.G. DENUNCIATION OF TERRORISM AND THREAT FROM RIGHT; CRITICISM OF RELEASE OF "FASCIST AGENTS"; SUPPORT FOR AGRARIAN REFORM, BUT THESE POSITIONS ARE INCONSISTENT WITH "ARROGANCE AND ANTI-COMMUNISM" OF CERTAIN SOCIALIST OFFICIALS.
- NO SINGLE POLITICAL FORCE CAN GUARANTEE THE DEMOCRATIC FUTURE OF PORTUGAL. UNITY OF ACTION AND THE COOPERATION OF ALL ANTI-FASCISTS AND DEMOCRATS, IS ESSENTIAL. COMMUNISTS ARE INTERESTED IN COMMON ACTION WITH SOCIALISTS, WHICH ALREADY EXISTS IN SOME PLACES.
- THE FASCIST THREAT REMAINS THE PRINCIPAL ENEMY. THE UNITY OF ALL FORCES INTERESTED IN PREVENTING A RETURN TO THE PAST OF OPPRESSION AND MISERY IS ESSENTIAL.
- REQUIRED UNITY CANNOT BE ACCOMPLISHED WITHOUT PCP, AND MUCH LESS AGAINST PCP.

2. COMMENT: PCP STATEMENT ECHOED LINE EXPRESSED BY PCP LEADER CUNHAL IN HIS JAN 31 SPEECH (REFTEL). THE PS RESPONSE CAME FROM MARIO SOARES IN AN AIRPORT INTERVIEW FEB 3 UPON HIS RETURN FROM THE AZORES. SOARES SAID POLITELY HE DID NOT SEE ANY INCREASED TENDENCY ON PART OF SOCIALIST PARTY TO JOIN IN COMMON ACTION WITH THE PCP. SOARES REAFFIRMED THAT THE PS WOULD CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN A COMPLETELY "AUTONOMOUS POSITION" BOTH IN RELATION TO PCP AS WELL AS THOSE PARTIES TO THE RIGHT OF SOCIALISTS.

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